

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 55

H. P. 31

Office of the Clerk of the House

Filed December 11, 1970 under Joint Rule 6 by Mr. Dyar of Strong. To be printed and delivered to the House of Representatives of the 105th Legislature.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dyar of Strong.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-ONE

AN ACT Prohibiting the Turning Back or Adjusting of Speedometers or Odometers on Motor Vehicles.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

R. S., T. 17, § 1609-A, additional. Title 17 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 1609-A, to read as follows:

§ 1609-A. Turning back or adjusting speedometers or odometers on motor vehicles

Any dealer in new and used motor vehicles, motor trucks or truck tractors, with intent to misrepresent to a prospective or eventual purchaser the number of miles traveled by any such vehicle, turns back or adjusts the speedometer or odometer thereof shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 7 years, or by both.

In a prosecution under this section, evidence that a dealer, by himself or by another, turned back or adjusted the speedometer or odometer shall constitute prima facie evidence of such intent to misrepresent.

Such dealer shall certify in writing to the purchaser of used motor vehicle, motor truck or truck tractor the name and address of the prior owner and that the mileage shown on the speedometer or odometer is the mileage of the motor vehicle, motor truck or truck tractor when he received it.

STATEMENT OF FACT

It has been found that many dealers in used and new cars are giving a trade-in allowance lower than the suggested book in cars showing high mile-

age. It has become a practice to turn back the odometer prior to resale which would command a higher price from the would-be purchaser. Due to this situation there is a tendency by owners of high mileage cars to have the odometer turned back by a local garage prior to trade-in to get a better allowance. The buyer of a used car is not getting true value through this practice.